(v) To sort out the problem of transportation of mails in rural areas, periodic meetings are held with the various transport authorities at various levels.

(vi) Checking of Money Order Payment by the Inspectors/Assistant Superintendents and Mails Overseers and Overseer Postmen.

Revenue Sharing Agreement

2102. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and the Deptt. of Telecommunications have entered into a new revenue sharing agreement; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features are as under:

1. The new revenue sharing arrangement will be effecting from 1.4.97 and will be applicable upto 31.3.2002.

2. In the Ist and 2nd financial years of the agreement, the VSNL will receive a net retention of Rs. 10/- per minute for each of outgoing and incoming calls.

3. From 3rd year onwards the absolute net earnings per paid minute of international traffic will be compared to the absolute net earnings per paid minute of international traffic in the base financial year i.e. 1997-98. Any difference in the amount will be shared between DOT and VSNL in the following ratio:

   For the year 1999-2000 the ratio of sharing will be 15:85 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

   For the year 2000-2001 the ratio of sharing will be 20:80 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

   For the year 2001-2002 the ratio of sharing will be 25:75 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

4. VSNL will pay a licence fee of Rs. 2.5 lakhs p.a. per average number of commissioned circuits.

5. Surcharge on Super Group was made to Zero.

6. This Agreement will be subject to review if in any financial year or years, the Rs./$ exchange rate fluctuate by more than 10% in either direction, with the objective of correcting the imbalance so caused.

7. The Agreement will aleo be reviewed if VSNL earns less than Rs. 9/- per minute or more than Rs. 11/- per minute in any financial year or years of Agreement, in order to correct the imbalance.

Gauge Conversion

2103. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Saurashtra and Kutch for conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge section into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above proposal is being considered by the Government;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to convert Wankaner Morbi-Navlakhi metre gauge section into broad gauge; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva and its extension upto Pipavav has been included in Supplementary Budget 1996-97. The work will be taken up after obtaining the required clearances.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Gauge conversion of Wankaner-Mailya Miyana and Dahinsara-Navlakhi is already included in the Budget. Work will be taken up shortly.

Applications for Telephone Connections

2104. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for telephone connections as on 1.4.1996 and 31.12.1996, circle-wise;

(b) the number of lines added, during April-December, 1996, circle-wise;

(c) the number of connections given, during April-December, 1996, circle-wise; and

(d) the average waiting time, for the general category, circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The details are given in the statement attached.

(d) The information is being collected from the Field units and the same will be placed on the Table of the Hon'ble House.